

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01978 091320Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 EUR-25 AID-20 DRC-01 SAM-01

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P 091305Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6086

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: NIMBUS STAR/MOON STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT

REF: CAIRO 1560

1. AS NUMBERS IN ADVANCE PARTY OF NIMBUS STAR/MOON GROW AND PROJECT MOVES INTO HIGH HEAR, IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT WE PROVIDE EGYPTIANS WITH A PROPOSED STATUS OF FORCES ARRANGEMENT. BRIT DCM TOLD ME YESTERDAY HE HAS RECEIVED FROM LONDON A DRAFT SOFA COVERING BRITISH FORCES INVOLVED IN CANAL MINE CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES AND HAS BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT. WE AGREED EXCHANGE NOTES BEFORE EITHER SIDE ACTUALLY APPROACHES GOE ON SUBJECT.

2. WE URGE PROMPT ACTION OF SOFA SINCE WE WILL LIKELY NEED TIME TO NEGOTIATE WITH EGYPTIANS. THEY PROBABLY WILL FIND SOME PROVISIONS OF OUR STANDARD ARRANGEMENT HARD TO TAKE. WHOLE IDEA IS LIKELY TO BE STRANGE TO THEM. THEIR EGYPTIAN NATIONALISM AND SENSITIVITY TO DOMESTIC AND OUTSIDE CRITICISM OF SEEMING TO RELINQUISH JURISDICTIONAL SOVEREIGNTY TO US MILITARY MAY MAKE  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01978 091320Z

INDIVIDUAL PROVISIONS HARD TO SWALLOW. THUS, FOR

EXAMPLE, STATEMENTS IN A SOFA RELATING TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN EGYPT MAY BE UNACCEPTABLE. THERE MAY ALSO BE ITEMS SUCH AS WAIVING DRIVERS LICENSES AND JURISDICTIONAL MATTERS ON WHICH THEY MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN WE WOULD WISH. ONE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT SOVIETS EVEN IN THEIR HEYDAY HERE WERE NOT GIVEN FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND HAD ANY NUMBER OF RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THEM.

3. THUS, THE SOONER WE HAVE AN APPROVED STATE/DOD TEXT TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS, THE BETTER. WE MAY IN THE END FIND WE HAVE TO ACCEPT SOME MORE INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EGYPTIANS IN REACHING ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS IN CERTAIN DIFFICULT AREAS. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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